Adverse Effects of certain chemicals used in paints on human Potency

6687. SHR! O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two chemicals—Ethyl Callosolve and Methyl Ccllosolvc—used in the manufacture of paints have been found to be a cause of loss of human potency and fertility, as discovered by the Maharashtra Labour Minister, Dr. Shrawan Paratc; and

(b) whether Govrnment propose cither to stop the use of these chemicals in paints or to enact a law for the strict observance of certain Precautionary norms by the labourers while coating paints to avoid this drcadly health hazard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) It is reported that some studies abroad have indicated probable reproductive toxic-effects.

Need of a Law Prohibiting sale of contaminated meat

6688. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of serious antl fatal diseases arc caused by the consumption of contaminated and unhygienic meat including chicken as is evident from the official figures for Delhi alone; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to enact a law to prohibit the slaughtering and sale of all kinds of contaminated meat in the interest of the general mcat-consuming people?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B SHANKARANAND): (a) Consumption of contaminated and unhygienic meat may lead to a number of diseases.

(b) The Municipal/Local Bodies regulate the slaughtering and sale of meat under their respective laws.

Increasing the number of PHCs in the country

6689. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:
SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Primary Health Centres are to be increased in number and extended to all villages as well;

(b) the number of villages in the country having a Primary Health Centre;

(c) what is total number of Primary Health Centres at present;

(d) the number of nurses required to attend all the citizens; and

(c) by when Government expect the target to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Primary Health Centres are provided to cater to the needs of a population of 30,000 in plains and 20,000 in hilly and tribal areas.

(b) Information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(c) According to the available information, there are 21,040 Primary Health Centres functioning in the country as on 31.12.1993.

(d) and (e) According to the broad estimates approximately 4.75 lakhs general nurses were required in 1991.

As per the Indian Nursing Council, 3.40 lakhs nurses were registered as on 31.12.1993.